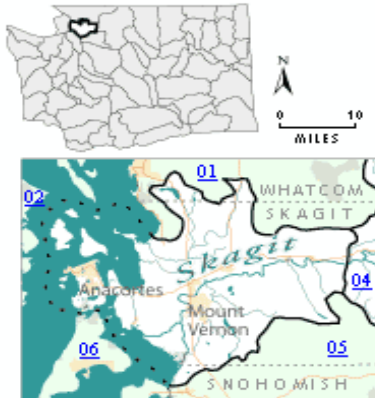


## Lower Skagit-Samish Basin - WRIA #3

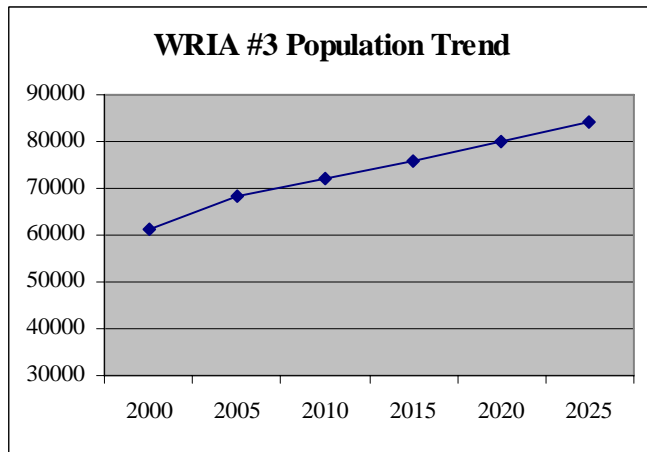


### Watershed Description

**WRIA #3** encompasses about 472,912 acres, mostly within the Cascade ecoregion. Rolling moraines and foothills, floodplains and meandering rivers characterize the lower Skagit. Surface material is deep fertile silt loam to very gravelly sandy loam. Potential natural vegetation is western hemlock, western red cedar, red alder, and some Douglas-fir. The annual precipitation averages 37 inches per year. The mean low/high temperatures are 36/46° in winter and 52/62° in summer.

### Population

There are approximately 61,453 people living in the Lower Skagit-Sammish Basin. The primary population centers are Mount Vernon and Anacortes. The majority of people live in unincorporated areas. The population graph reflects the combined projected population of those counties located within the watershed (Office of Financial Management population projections).



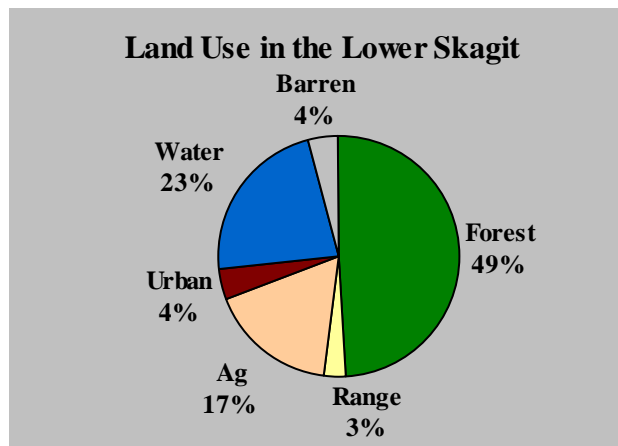
Counties	% of basin
Skagit	94%
Whatcom	4%
Snohomish	2%

Tribal Reservation Lands in WRIA #3
Swinomish Tribe
Upper Skagit Tribe

**Land ownership** for WRIA #3 includes federal, state, local, tribal, and private lands. Data was derived from the Public Lands Survey by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Land Ownership	Acres	Proportion
Federal	8,209	1.7%
State	60,219	12.7%
Local	2,935	0.6%
Tribal	7,334	1.6%
Private	394,213	83.4%

**Land use** in the Lower Skagit-Samish Basin is mainly forestry, agriculture and water related uses. The general type of known land-use activities within the watershed is graphed according to the percentage of its occurrence.



**The primary towns and cities in WRIA #3** include Mount Vernon, Burlington, La Conner, Sedro-Woolley, and Anacortes.

### **Legislative and Congressional Districts**

To determine your region's legislative or congressional district, see:

<http://www1.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

To determine **Latitude/Longitude coordinates**, see:

<http://www.topozone.com/>

(Make sure you set the button on the bottom of the page to D/M/S - hold the cursor over a spot on the map and the coordinates show at the bottom of the screen.)

Several federal programs refer to watersheds according to their Hydrological Unit Code (HUC). To learn more about your watershed and determine which **HUC** your town or county is located in, see:

<http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/>

## **Water Quality**

### **Water Quality Assessment**

The statewide Water Quality Assessment categorizes waterbody segments that have water quality data available. The Simple Query Tool and interactive mapping tool allow you to search for specific categories, water bodies, pollutant parameters and other information, in whatever combination you choose. **WRIA #3** has sixty-eight (68) known Category 5 (impaired) water bodies.

To view the Water Quality Assessment, use the Simple Query Tool.

<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wats/WATSOBEHome.asp>

To view the Water Quality Assessment by Category, choose the Category (1 – 5) you are interested in from the drop down box. To view it by Water Resource Inventory Resource Area (WRIA), choose the WRIA number you are interested in from the drop down box.

Use the Interactive Mapping Tool to see a graphic representation of the Water Quality Assessment. This is a Geographic Information System (GIS) application that helps you find waters you are interested in and information about problems in that water body.

<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wgawa/viewer.htm>

## **Domestic Water Supply**

**WRIA #3** has several community water systems that use surface water sources. For further information regarding water supplies, see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/default.htm>

## Salmonid Stock Status

Good water quality is important to help salmon survive and thrive. To find out which salmon species are listed as threatened or endangered in a region, see:

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/gsro/regions/map.htm>

## Commercial and Recreational Shellfish Growing Areas

**Commercial shellfish** growing areas are classified by the Washington State Department of Health as either: *Approved*, *Conditionally Approved*, *Restricted*, or *Prohibited*.

For the most up-to-date information about shellfish area designations, see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/grow.htm>

**Recreational shellfish** closures are determined by the Department of Health and local health jurisdiction; for information contact your county or health district or see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/local.htm>

## TMDLs and Other Watershed-Based Plans

For information about Total Maximum Daily Loads (**TMDLs**) in your area, see:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/>

To learn more about **watershed planning** in Washington State, see:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/watershed/index.html>

For **funding applicants**, other useful links can be found at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/links.html>